

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of the State Auditor



Rebecca Otto
State Auditor

POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008

Description of the Office of the State Auditor

The mission of the Office of the State Auditor is to oversee local government finances for Minnesota taxpayers by helping to ensure financial integrity and accountability in local governmental financial activities.

Through financial, compliance, and special audits, the State Auditor oversees and ensures that local government funds are used for the purposes intended by law and that local governments hold themselves to the highest standards of financial accountability.

The State Auditor performs approximately 160 financial and compliance audits per year and has oversight responsibilities for over 3,300 local units of government throughout the state. The office currently maintains five divisions:

Audit Practice - conducts financial and legal compliance audits of local governments;

Government Information - collects and analyzes financial information for cities, towns, counties, and special districts;

Legal/Special Investigations - provides legal analysis and counsel to the Office and responds to outside inquiries about Minnesota local government law; as well as investigates allegations of misfeasance, malfeasance, and nonfeasance in local government;

Pension - monitors investment, financial, and actuarial reporting for approximately 730 public pension funds; and

Tax Increment Financing - promotes compliance and accountability in local governments' use of tax increment financing through financial and compliance audits.

The State Auditor serves on the State Executive Council, State Board of Investment, Land Exchange Board, Public Employees Retirement Association Board, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, and the Rural Finance Authority Board.

Office of the State Auditor
525 Park Street, Suite 500
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103
(651) 296-2551
state.auditor@state.mn.us
www.auditor.state.mn.us

This document can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Call 651-296-2551 [voice] or 1-800-627-3529 [relay service] for assistance; or visit the Office of the State Auditor's web site: www.auditor.state.mn.us.

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2008



**Audit Practice Division
Office of the State Auditor
State of Minnesota**

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**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

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**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

ORGANIZATION
DECEMBER 31, 2008

		<u>Term Expires</u>
Board of Directors		
Douglas County		
Board Member	Norm Salto	Indefinite
Board Member	Dan Olson	Indefinite
Board Member	David Nelson	Indefinite
Pope County		
Chair	Robert McCrory	Indefinite
Board Member	Dean Paulson	Indefinite
Officers		
Executive Director	Peter Olmscheid	Indefinite
Plant Manager	Darrell Connell	Indefinite
Office Manager	Donna Pederson	Indefinite

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REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

SUITE 500
525 PARK STREET
SAINT PAUL, MN 55103-2139

(651) 296-2551 (Voice)
(651) 296-4755 (Fax)
state.auditor@state.mn.us (E-mail)
1-800-627-3529 (Relay Service)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Directors
Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management

We have audited the basic financial statements of Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management (a component unit of Douglas County) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2008, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the basic financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management at December 31, 2008, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As discussed in Note 6.E. to the financial statements, during the year ended December 31, 2008, Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 45, *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated November 30, 2009, on our consideration of Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

/s/Rebecca Otto

REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

/s/Greg Hierlinger

GREG HIERLINGER, CPA
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR

November 30, 2009

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

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**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
DECEMBER 31, 2008
(Unaudited)**

Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management's (PDSW) Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) provides an overview of PDSW's financial activities for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008. Since this information is designed to focus on the current year's activities, resulting changes, and currently known facts, it should be read in conjunction with PDSW's financial statements.

Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management is a joint enterprise operation of Pope and Douglas Counties to operate and manage an integrated waste management system within Pope and Douglas Counties. PDSW operates a waste-to-energy plant, a materials recycling facility, a landfill, and a household hazardous waste facility.

Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management is a component unit of Douglas County because Douglas County is financially accountable for the PDSW. PDSW's financial statements are discretely presented in the Douglas County financial statements.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This MD&A is intended to serve as an introduction to the basic financial statements. Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management's basic financial statements consist of two parts: the financial statements and the notes to the financial statements. The MD&A (this section) is required to accompany the basic financial statements and, therefore, is included as required supplementary information.

The financial statements present Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management's financial activities and consist of the following:

- The statement of net assets compares the assets and liabilities to give an overall view of the financial health of PDSW.
- The statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net assets provides information on changes in PDSW's finances. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account, regardless of when the cash is received or paid.
- The statement of cash flows reports sources and uses of cash for PDSW.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Net Assets				
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>Percent Change (%)</u>
Assets				
Current and other assets	\$ 8,638,673	\$ 8,932,350	\$ (293,677)	(3.3)
Noncurrent assets	12,371,471	12,680,752	(309,281)	(2.4)
Total Assets	\$ 21,010,144	\$ 21,613,102	\$ (602,958)	(2.8)
Liabilities				
Long-term liabilities	\$ 1,690,214	\$ 1,650,322	\$ 39,892	2.4
Other liabilities	364,094	271,364	92,730	34.2
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,054,308	\$ 1,921,686	\$ 132,622	6.9
Net Assets				
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	\$ 11,859,914	\$ 12,661,765	\$ (801,851)	(6.3)
Restricted	853,395	819,127	34,268	4.2
Unrestricted	6,242,527	6,210,524	32,003	0.5
Total Net Assets	\$ 18,955,836	\$ 19,691,416	\$ (735,580)	(3.7)

Net assets of PDSW decreased slightly by 3.7 percent. Unrestricted net assets totaling \$6,242,527 are available to finance the day-to-day operations of PDSW.

Change in Net Assets				
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>Percent Change (%)</u>
Operating Revenues				
Charges for services	\$ 2,863,207	\$ 2,781,134	\$ 82,073	3.0
Miscellaneous	41,268	45,749	(4,481)	(9.8)
Nonoperating Revenues				
Special assessments	1,263,607	1,208,656	54,951	4.5
Intergovernmental	156,411	153,895	2,516	1.6
Interest income	194,612	364,318	(169,706)	(46.6)
Total Revenues	\$ 4,519,105	\$ 4,553,752	\$ (34,647)	(0.8)

	2008	2007	Increase (Decrease)	Percent Change (%)
Operating Expenses				
Payroll	\$ 1,362,730	1,347,460	\$ 15,270	1.1
Employee benefits and payroll taxes	370,721	328,337	42,384	12.9
Professional services	621,347	585,357	35,990	6.1
Supplies	272,501	268,202	4,299	1.6
SCORE	384,874	387,571	(2,697)	(0.7)
Travel	16,947	15,898	1,049	6.6
Telephone	9,918	5,457	4,461	81.7
Utilities	227,172	193,206	33,966	17.6
Advertising	7,694	5,381	2,313	43.0
Insurance	165,680	201,338	(35,658)	(17.7)
Postage	850	1,230	(380)	(30.9)
Commodity freight	23,912	20,266	3,646	18.0
Repairs and maintenance	736,758	546,988	189,770	34.7
Miscellaneous	33,391	42,751	(9,360)	(21.9)
Depreciation	946,305	912,607	33,698	3.7
Landfill closure and postclosure care costs	18,242	30,365	(12,123)	(39.9)
Nonoperating Expenses				
Bond issuance costs	5,032	-	5,032	100.0
Interest expense	34,053	1,211	32,842	2712.0
Loss on disposal of capital assets	16,558	186,080	(169,522)	(91.1)
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 5,254,685</u>	<u>\$ 5,079,705</u>	<u>\$ 174,980</u>	3.4
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	<u>\$ (735,580)</u>	<u>\$ (525,953)</u>	<u>\$ (209,627)</u>	(39.9)

Revenues decreased 0.8 percent. The decrease was due to a decrease in interest on investments as a result of the steep decline in interest rates. Expenses increased 3.4 percent. The maintenance and repair increase was due to unexpected refractory repairs.

CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

Capital Assets (Net of Depreciation)

	2008	2007	Increase (Decrease)	Percent Change (%)
Land	\$ 179,288	\$ 179,288	\$ -	-
Construction in progress	513,790	-	513,790	100.0
Land improvements	2,391,937	2,491,994	(100,057)	(4.0)
Infrastructure	1,115,147	1,162,101	(46,954)	(4.0)
Buildings	3,648,263	3,849,209	(200,946)	(5.2)
Machinery, furniture, and equipment	4,510,388	4,979,173	(468,785)	(9.4)
Totals	<u>\$ 12,358,813</u>	<u>\$ 12,661,765</u>	<u>\$ (302,952)</u>	(2.4)

The engineering phase of a 120-ton-per-day plant expansion began in early 2008. The total cost of this phase is expected to be \$1,020,000. This is being funded by the 2007 sale of \$1,035,000 general obligation temporary bonds.

CONTACTING PDSW'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, customers, and creditors with a general overview of Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management's finances and to show PDSW's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report, or need additional financial information, contact the Executive Director, Peter Olmscheid, 2115 South Jefferson, Alexandria, Minnesota 56308.

BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 1

**STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
DECEMBER 31, 2008**

Assets

Current assets

Cash and pooled investments	\$ 3,368,334
Petty cash and change funds	300
Investments	2,964,080
Special assessments	
Current	69,115
Prior	20,210
Accounts receivable - net	327,959
Accrued interest receivable	41,508
Due from other governments	9,040
Prepaid items	21,194

Total current assets **\$ 6,821,740**

Restricted assets

Cash and pooled investments	\$ 523,804
Investments	1,265,706
Accrued interest receivable	27,423

Total restricted assets **\$ 1,816,933**

Noncurrent assets

Deferred charges	\$ 12,658
Capital assets	
Nondepreciable	693,078
Depreciable - net	11,665,735

Total noncurrent assets **\$ 12,371,471**

Total Assets **\$ 21,010,144**

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

***EXHIBIT 1
(Continued)***

**STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
DECEMBER 31, 2008**

Liabilities

Current liabilities

Accounts payable	\$ 120,785
Salaries payable	89,198
Compensated absences payable - current	69,187
Contracts payable	69,176
Due to other governments	1,640
Accrued interest payable	14,108
	<hr/>

Total current liabilities

\$ 364,094

Noncurrent liabilities

Compensated absences payable - long-term	\$ 183,454
Landfill closure and postclosure care costs	448,431
General obligation bonds payable - long-term	1,037,594
OPEB liability	20,735
	<hr/>

Total noncurrent liabilities

\$ 1,690,214

Total Liabilities

\$ 2,054,308

Net Assets

Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	\$ 11,859,914
Restricted for closure and postclosure care costs	853,395
Unrestricted	6,242,527
	<hr/>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 18,955,836</u>

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 2

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008**

Operating Revenues	
Charges for services	\$ 2,863,207
Miscellaneous	41,268
	<hr/>
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 2,904,475
Operating Expenses	
Payroll	\$ 1,362,730
Employee benefits and payroll taxes	370,721
Professional services	621,347
Supplies	272,501
SCORE	384,874
Travel	16,947
Telephone	9,918
Utilities	227,172
Advertising	7,694
Insurance	165,680
Postage	850
Commodity freight	23,912
Repairs and maintenance	736,758
Miscellaneous	33,391
Depreciation	946,305
Landfill closure and postclosure care costs	18,242
	<hr/>
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 5,199,042
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (2,294,567)
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	
Special assessments	\$ 1,263,607
Intergovernmental	156,411
Interest income	194,612
Bond issuance costs	(5,032)
Interest expense	(34,053)
Gain (loss) on disposal of capital assets	(16,558)
	<hr/>
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	\$ 1,558,987
Change in net assets	\$ (735,580)
Net Assets - January 1	19,691,416
	<hr/>
Net Assets - December 31	\$ 18,955,836
	<hr/> <hr/>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

EXHIBIT 3

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008
Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash Flows from Operating Activities	
Receipts from customers and users	\$ 2,930,882
Payments to suppliers	(2,298,845)
Payments to employees	<u>(1,848,515)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>\$ (1,216,478)</u>
Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities	
Special assessments	\$ 1,256,529
Intergovernmental	<u>156,411</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) noncapital financing activities	<u>\$ 1,412,940</u>
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities	
Interest paid on long-term debt	\$ (21,156)
Purchases of capital assets	<u>(659,911)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) capital and related financing activities	<u>\$ (681,067)</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities	
Purchase of investments	\$ (6,949,295)
Proceeds from sale of investments	7,975,200
Investment earnings received	<u>232,441</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>\$ 1,258,346</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 773,741
Cash and Cash Equivalents at January 1	<u>3,118,697</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at December 31	<u><u>\$ 3,892,438</u></u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Exhibit 1	
Cash and pooled investments	\$ 3,368,334
Petty cash and change funds	300
Restricted cash and pooled investments	<u>523,804</u>
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u><u>\$ 3,892,438</u></u>

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

***EXHIBIT 3
(Continued)***

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008
Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	
Operating income (loss)	<u>\$ (2,294,567)</u>
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	
Depreciation expense	\$ 946,305
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	26,645
(Increase) decrease in due from other governments	(241)
(Increase) decrease in prepaid items	(15,642)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	(2,543)
Increase (decrease) in salaries payable	15,429
Increase (decrease) in compensated absences payable	(1,212)
Increase (decrease) in contracts payable	69,176
Increase (decrease) in due to other governments	1,195
Increase (decrease) in OPEB liability	20,735
Increase (decrease) in landfill closure costs	<u>18,242</u>
Total adjustments	<u>\$ 1,078,089</u>
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	<u>\$ (1,216,478)</u>
Noncash Investing, Capital, and Financing Activities	
Change in fair value of long-term investments	<u>\$ (8,167)</u>

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**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management's (PDSW) financial statements are prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) for the year ended December 31, 2008. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is responsible for establishing GAAP for state and local governments through its pronouncements (statements and interpretations). Governments are also required to follow the pronouncements of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued through November 30, 1989, (when applicable) that do not conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements. Although PDSW has the option to apply FASB pronouncements issued after that date, PDSW has chosen not to do so. The more significant accounting policies established in GAAP and used by the Board are discussed below.

A. Financial Reporting Entity

Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management is a joint enterprise operation of Pope and Douglas Counties (the Counties). PDSW was established by a Joint Powers Agreement dated December 7, 1983, amended May 1, 1990, and amended again April 9, 1997, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 471.59, Joint Powers Act.

Each of the Counties is authorized and obligated pursuant to Minn. Stat. chs. 115A and 400, to provide for the management and disposal of solid waste in its respective county. It is the intention of the Counties to cooperate in a joint venture to operate and manage an integrated waste management system within Douglas and Pope Counties. This purpose, without limitation, shall include the planning, administration, and operation of recycling programs; the ownership and operation of a waste-to-energy facility; and the ownership, operation, and management of any ash and/or by-pass landfill. The facility and administrative office are located in Alexandria, Minnesota.

PDSW is governed by a five-member Board of Directors, two members appointed from Pope County and three from Douglas County. Receipts and disbursements are recorded in the Solid Waste Fund by the Douglas County Auditor/Treasurer. Douglas County's ownership is 75 percent, and Pope County's ownership is 25 percent.

Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management is a component unit of Douglas County because Douglas County is financially accountable for PDSW. PDSW's financial statements are discretely presented in the Douglas County financial statements.

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

B. Basic Financial Statements

The accounts of PDSW are organized as an enterprise fund. Operating revenues, such as charges for services, result from exchange transactions associated with the principal activity of PDSW. Exchange transactions are those in which each party receives and gives up essentially equal values. Nonoperating revenues, such as subsidies and investment earnings, result from nonexchange transactions or incidental activities. PDSW's net assets are reported in three parts: (1) invested in capital assets, net of related debt; (2) restricted net assets; and (3) unrestricted net assets.

C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

PDSW's financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned, and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Special assessments are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Shared revenues are generally recognized in the period the appropriation goes into effect. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met. When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is PDSW's policy to use restricted resources first and then unrestricted resources as needed.

D. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity

1. Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash and pooled investments and petty cash. PDSW's cash is pooled and invested with Douglas County and is treated as a cash equivalent because PDSW can deposit or effectively withdraw cash at any time without prior notice or penalty. Interest is credited to the Solid Waste Fund. Douglas County obtains collateral to cover the deposits in excess of insurance coverage.

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

D. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity (Continued)

2. Fund Investments

The Douglas County Auditor/Treasurer purchases investments for Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management upon its direction. Fund investments are reported at their fair value at December 31, 2008, based on market prices. Interest earned on such restricted investments is credited to the Solid Waste Fund. Additional disclosures as required by GASB Statement No. 40, *Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosures*, are disclosed on a County-wide basis in the Douglas County Annual Financial Report.

Minn. Stat. §§ 118A.04 and 118A.05 generally authorize the following types of investments as available to PDSW:

- (1) securities which are direct obligations or are guaranteed or insured issues of the United States, its agencies, its instrumentalities, or organizations created by an act of Congress, except mortgage-backed securities defined as “high risk” by Minn. Stat. § 118A.04, subd. 6;
- (2) mutual funds through shares of registered investment companies provided the mutual fund receives certain ratings depending on its investments;
- (3) general obligations of the State of Minnesota and its municipalities, and in certain state agency and local obligations of Minnesota and other states provided such obligations have certain specified bond ratings by a national bond rating service;
- (4) bankers’ acceptances of United States banks;
- (5) commercial paper issued by United States corporations or their Canadian subsidiaries that is rated in the highest quality category by two nationally recognized rating agencies and matures in 270 days or less; and
- (6) with certain restrictions, in repurchase agreements, securities lending agreements, joint powers investment trusts, and guaranteed investment contracts.

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

D. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity (Continued)

3. Receivables

All receivables are shown net of an allowance for uncollectibles.

Special assessments receivable consist of delinquent special assessments payable in the years 1993 through 2008.

4. Prepaid Items

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in the statements.

5. Restricted Assets

Restricted assets represent the amounts set aside by PDSW for landfill closure and postclosure financial assurances and unspent capital projects bonding. Below is a summary of the restricted assets at December 31, 2008.

Restricted for closure and postclosure care costs	\$ 1,265,706
Restricted for capital projects	523,804
Accrued interest on restricted investments	<u>27,423</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,816,933</u>

6. Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant, and equipment, are reported in the financial statements. Capital assets are defined by PDSW as assets with an estimated useful life in excess of two years. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets' lives are not capitalized.

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

D. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity

6. Capital Assets (Continued)

Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed. Interest incurred during the construction phase of capital assets is included as part of the capitalized value of the assets constructed. During the current period, PDSW did not have any capitalized interest.

Property, plant, and equipment of PDSW are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Years</u>
Landfill	Based on capacity
Buildings	20 - 40
Building improvements	20 - 40
Furniture, equipment, and vehicles	5 - 10
Infrastructure	20 - 30

7. Compensated Absences

The liability for compensated absences reported in the financial statements consists of unpaid, accumulated annual and sick leave balances. The liability has been calculated using the vesting method, in which leave amounts for both employees who currently are eligible to receive termination payments and other employees who are expected to become eligible in the future to receive such payments upon termination are included. Compensated absences are accrued when incurred.

8. Deferred Revenue

The financial statements defer revenue for resources that have been received, but not yet earned.

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

D. Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets or Equity (Continued)

9. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

2. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets

1. Receivables

Receivables as of December 31, 2008, including the applicable allowances for uncollectible accounts, are as follows:

	Total Receivables	Amounts Not Scheduled for Collection During the Subsequent Year
Special assessments	\$ 89,325	\$ -
Accounts	327,959	-
Interest - unrestricted	41,508	-
Due from other governments	9,040	-
Interest - restricted	27,423	-
Total	<u>\$ 495,255</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

2. Detailed Notes on All Funds

A. Assets (Continued)

2. Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2008, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Increase	Decrease	Ending Balance
Capital assets not depreciated				
Land	\$ 179,288	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 179,288
Construction in progress	-	513,790	-	513,790
Total capital assets not depreciated	\$ 179,288	\$ 513,790	\$ -	\$ 693,078
Capital assets depreciated				
Land improvements	\$ 3,377,612	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,377,612
Infrastructure	1,173,839	-	-	1,173,839
Buildings	5,847,966	-	-	5,847,966
Machinery, furniture, and equipment	8,838,295	176,121	123,285	8,891,131
Total capital assets depreciated	\$ 19,237,712	\$ 176,121	\$ 123,285	\$ 19,290,548
Less: accumulated depreciation for				
Land improvements	\$ 885,618	\$ 100,057	\$ -	\$ 985,675
Infrastructure	11,738	46,954	-	58,692
Buildings	1,998,757	200,946	-	2,199,703
Machinery, furniture, and equipment	3,859,122	598,348	76,727	4,380,743
Total accumulated depreciation	\$ 6,755,235	\$ 946,305	\$ 76,727	\$ 7,624,813
Total capital assets depreciated, net	\$ 12,482,477	\$ (770,184)	\$ 46,558	\$ 11,665,735
Capital Assets, Net	\$ 12,661,765	\$ (256,394)	\$ 46,558	\$ 12,358,813

B. Liabilities

1. Payables

Payables at December 31, 2008, were as follows:

Accounts	\$ 120,785
Salaries	89,198
Contracts payable	69,176
Due to other governments	1,640
Accrued interest payable	14,108
Total Payables	\$ 294,907

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

2. Detailed Notes on All Funds

B. Liabilities (Continued)

2. Leases

Operating Leases

Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management contracts with Alex Rubbish Services, Inc., to transport ash from the waste-to-energy incinerator, provide services to operate the landfill, and transport any leachate to a facility designated by PDSW. The lease provides payments based upon the formula provided in the agreement. Lease payments were \$173,907 in 2008. The lease, beginning October 1, 2008, is for a two-year period and contains a 90-day cancellation notice by either party.

3. Long-Term Debt

Type of Indebtedness	Final Maturity	Installment Amount	Interest Rate (%)	Original Issue Amount	Outstanding Balance December 31, 2008
General Obligation Bonds 2007B G.O. Temporary Bonds	2010	\$1,035,000	3.30	\$ 1,035,000	\$ 1,035,000
Add: Unamortized premium					<u>2,594</u>
Total General Obligation Bonds, Net					<u>\$ 1,037,594</u>

4. Debt Service Requirements

Debt service requirements at December 31, 2008, were as follows:

Year Ending December 31	G.O. Temporary Bonds Payable	
	Principal	Interest
2009	\$ -	\$ 34,155
2010	<u>1,035,000</u>	<u>17,078</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,035,000</u>	<u>\$ 51,233</u>

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

2. Detailed Notes on All Funds

B. Liabilities (Continued)

5. Changes in Long-Term Liabilities

Long-term liability activity for the year ended December 31, 2008, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Reductions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Estimated liability for landfill closure and postclosure care costs	\$ 430,189	\$ 18,242	\$ -	\$ 448,431	\$ -
Compensated absences	253,853	111,688	112,900	252,641	69,187
OPEB liability	-	20,735	-	20,735	-
General obligation bonds	1,035,000	-	-	1,035,000	-
Add: Unamortized premium	3,891	-	1,297	2,594	-
Long-Term Liabilities	<u>\$ 1,722,933</u>	<u>\$ 150,665</u>	<u>\$ 114,197</u>	<u>\$ 1,759,401</u>	<u>\$ 69,187</u>

3. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans

A. Defined Benefit Plan

Plan Description

All full-time and certain part-time employees of Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management are covered by defined benefit plans administered by the Public Employees Retirement Association of Minnesota (PERA). PERA administers the Public Employees Retirement Fund, which is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer retirement plan. The plan is established and administered in accordance with Minn. Stat. chs. 353 and 356.

Public Employees Retirement Fund members belong to either the Coordinated Plan or the Basic Plan. Coordinated Plan members are covered by Social Security, and Basic Plan members are not. All new members must participate in the Coordinated Plan.

PERA provides retirement benefits as well as disability benefits to members and benefits to survivors upon death of eligible members. Benefits are established by state statute and vest after three years of credited service. The defined retirement benefits are based on a member's highest average salary for any five successive years of allowable service, age, and years of credit at termination of service.

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

3. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans

A. Defined Benefit Plan

Plan Description (Continued)

Two methods are used to compute benefits for Coordinated and Basic Plan members. The retiring member receives the higher of a step-rate benefit accrual formula (Method 1) or a level accrual formula (Method 2). Under Method 1, the annuity accrual rate for a Basic Plan member is 2.2 percent of average salary for each of the first ten years of service and 2.7 percent for each year thereafter. For a Coordinated Plan member, the annuity accrual rate is 1.2 percent of average salary for each of the first ten years and 1.7 percent for each successive year. Using Method 2, the annuity accrual rate is 2.7 percent of average salary for Basic Plan members and 1.7 percent for Coordinated Plan members for each year of service.

For Public Employees Retirement Fund members whose annuity is calculated using Method 1, a full annuity is available when age plus years of service equal 90. Normal retirement age is 65 for members hired prior to July 1, 1989, and is the age for unreduced Social Security benefits capped at age 66 for Coordinated Plan members hired on or after July 1, 1989. A reduced retirement annuity is also available to eligible members seeking early retirement.

The benefit provisions stated in the previous paragraphs of this section are current provisions and apply to active plan participants. Vested, terminated employees who are entitled to benefits but are not yet receiving them are bound by the provisions in effect at the time they last terminated public service.

PERA issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the Public Employees Retirement Fund. That report may be obtained on the internet at www.mnpera.org; by writing to PERA at 60 Empire Drive, Suite 200, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103-2088; or by calling 651-296-7460 or 1-800-652-9026.

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

3. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans

A. Defined Benefit Plan (Continued)

Funding Policy

Pension benefits are funded from member and employer contributions and income from the investment of fund assets. Minn. Stat. ch. 353 sets the rates for employer and employee contributions. PDSW makes annual contributions to the pension plans equal to the amount required by state statutes. Public Employees Retirement Fund Basic Plan members and Coordinated Plan members were required to contribute 9.1 and 6.0 percent, respectively, of their annual covered salary.

PDSW is required to contribute the following percentages of annual covered payroll in 2008 and 2009:

	2008	2009
Public Employees Retirement Fund		
Basic Plan members	11.78%	11.78%
Coordinated Plan members	6.50	6.75

PDSW's contributions for the years ending December 31, 2008, 2007, and 2006, for the Public Employees Retirement Fund were:

	2008	2007	2006
\$	91,531	\$ 84,453	\$ 76,485

These contribution amounts are equal to the contractually required contributions for each year as set by state statute.

B. Defined Contribution Plan

Two of the Douglas County Board Members are covered by the Public Employees Defined Contribution Plan, a multiple-employer, deferred compensation plan administered by PERA in accordance with Minn. Stat. ch. 353D. The plan is established and administered in accordance with Minn. Stat. ch. 353D, which may be amended by the State Legislature. The plan is a tax qualified plan under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, and all contributions by or on behalf of employees are tax deferred until time of withdrawal.

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

3. Employee Retirement Systems and Pension Plans

B. Defined Contribution Plan (Continued)

Plan benefits depend solely on amounts contributed to the plan plus investment earnings, less administrative expenses. Minn. Stat. § 353D.03 specifies plan provisions, including the employee and employer contribution rates for those qualified personnel who elect to participate. An eligible elected official who decides to participate contributes five percent of salary, which is matched by the employer. Employees may elect to make member contributions in an amount not to exceed the employer share. Employee and employer contributions are combined and used to purchase shares in one or more of the seven accounts of the Minnesota Supplemental Investment Fund. For administering the plan, PERA receives 2.00 percent of employer contributions and 0.25 percent of the assets in each member account annually.

Total contributions by dollar amount and percentage of covered payroll made by PDSW during the year ended December 31, 2008, were:

	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Employer</u>
Contribution amount	\$ 112.90	\$ 112.90
Percentage of covered payroll	5.00%	5.00%

Required contribution rates were 5.00 percent.

4. Landfill Closure and Postclosure Care Costs

State and federal laws and regulations require PDSW to place a final cover on its landfill site when it stops accepting waste and to perform certain maintenance and monitoring functions at the site for 30 years after closure. Although closure and postclosure care costs will be paid only near or after the date that the landfill stops accepting waste, PDSW reports a portion of these closure and postclosure care costs as an operating expense in each period based on landfill capacity used as of each balance sheet date. The \$448,431 landfill closure and postclosure care liability at December 31, 2008, represents the cumulative amount reported to date based on the use of 9.1 percent of the estimated capacity of the landfill. PDSW will recognize the remaining estimated cost of closure and postclosure care of \$1,219,391 as the remaining estimated capacity is filled. These amounts are based on what it would cost to perform all closure and postclosure care in 2008.

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

4. Landfill Closure and Postclosure Care Costs (Continued)

PDSW expects to close the landfill in 2161. Actual cost may be higher due to inflation, changes in technology, or changes in regulations.

PDSW is required by state and federal laws and regulations to make annual contributions to a trust to finance closure and postclosure care. PDSW is in compliance with these requirements and, at December 31, 2008, investments of \$1,265,706 are held for these purposes. These are reported as restricted assets on the statement of net assets. PDSW expects that future inflation costs will be paid from investment earnings on these annual contributions. However, if investment earnings are inadequate or additional postclosure care requirements are determined (due to changes in technology or applicable laws and regulations, for example), these costs may need to be covered by charges to future landfill users or from future tax revenue.

5. Risk Management

PDSW is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, or destruction of assets; errors or omissions; injuries to employees; or natural disasters for which PDSW carries commercial insurance. To cover these risks, PDSW is a member of both the Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT) Workers' Compensation and Property and Casualty Divisions. For other risk, PDSW carries commercial insurance. There were no significant reductions in insurance from the prior year. The amount of settlements did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

The Workers' Compensation Division of MCIT is self-sustaining based on the contributions charged, so that total contributions plus compounded earnings on these contributions will equal the amount needed to satisfy claims liabilities and other expenses. MCIT participates in the Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association with coverage at \$410,000 per claim in 2008 and \$430,000 per claim in 2009. Should the MCIT Workers' Compensation Division liabilities exceed assets, MCIT may assess PDSW in a method and amount to be determined by MCIT.

The Property and Casualty Division of MCIT is self-sustaining, and PDSW pays an annual premium to cover current and future losses. MCIT carries reinsurance for its property lines to protect against catastrophic losses. Should the MCIT Property and Casualty Division liabilities exceed assets, MCIT may assess PDSW in a method and amount to be determined by MCIT.

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

5. Risk Management (Continued)

PDSW participates in the Douglas County self-insurance program for employee health coverage. The activity is recorded in the Douglas County Self-Insurance Internal Service Fund.

6. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

A. Contingent Liabilities

Amounts received or receivable from grant agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims, including amounts already collected, may constitute a liability of the applicable funds. The amount, if any, of the expenditures that may be disallowed by the grantor cannot be determined at this time, although PDSW expects such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

B. Designated Funds

PDSW has set aside funds for construction of a landfill and equipment replacement. Below is a summary of the investments set aside at December 31, 2008.

Designated for landfill construction	\$	1,120,806
Designated for equipment replacement		3,656,022
Total	\$	4,776,828

C. Operating Budgets

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Operating Revenues	\$ 2,465,000	\$ 2,904,475	\$ 439,475
Operating Expenses	3,711,184	5,199,042	(1,487,858)
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (1,246,184)	\$ (2,294,567)	\$ (1,048,383)
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	1,296,456	1,558,987	262,531
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 50,272	\$ (735,580)	\$ (785,852)

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

6. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items (Continued)

D. Affiliated Debt

In financing the construction of the materials recycling facility, the sponsoring counties sold general obligation bonds; these bonds are the liability of Pope and Douglas Counties and not of Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management. Outstanding debt of each county related to the financing is as follows:

<u>Type of Indebtedness</u>	<u>Final Maturity</u>	<u>Installment Amounts</u>	<u>Net Interest Rate (%)</u>	<u>Original Issue Amount</u>	<u>Outstanding Balance December 31, 2008</u>
2002 Pope County G.O. Solid Waste Bonds	2011	\$90,000 - \$115,000	3.3531	\$ 1,030,000	\$ 335,000
2002C Douglas County G.O. Solid Waste Disposal Bonds	2021	\$105,000 - \$225,000	4.5377	3,075,000	2,210,000

E. Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

As of January 1, 2008, Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management adopted GASB Statement No. 45, *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*. PDSW engaged an actuary to determine PDSW's liability for postemployment health care benefits as of January 1, 2008. The actuary determined the only obligation PDSW has is the implied subsidy portion as described in the standard.

Plan Description

PDSW provides OPEB that provide basic medical and hospitalization plan coverage to eligible retirees. PDSW policy allows employees retiring under PERA to continue their coverage under the PDSW's group health insurance program to age 65. At retirement, employees of PDSW, receiving a retirement or disability benefit or eligible to receive a benefit from a Minnesota public pension plan, may continue to participate in the PDSW-sponsored group health insurance plan that the employee was a participant of immediately prior to retirement. Employees may obtain dependent coverage at retirement only if the employee was receiving dependent coverage immediately prior to retirement.

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

6. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

E. Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

Plan Description (Continued)

Retirees, spouses, and dependents are eligible to remain in the PDSW-sponsored group health insurance plan provided the applicable premiums are paid. Retirees that elect not to continue health coverage at any time (postemployment) are not eligible to re-enroll in the PDSW-sponsored group health insurance plan. Retirees who initially obtained spouse and/or dependent coverage may drop spouse and or dependent coverage and maintain coverage for themselves; retirees may not drop coverage for themselves and maintain spouse and/or dependent coverage. Covered spouses and/or dependents may continue coverage after the retiree's death provided the applicable premiums are paid.

Funding Policy

PDSW has elected to fund the plan on a pay-as-you-go method.

Annual OPEB Cost and Net OPEB Obligation

PDSW's annual OPEB cost (expense) is calculated based on the annual required contribution (ARC) of the employer, an amount actuarially determined in accordance with the parameters of GASB Statement 45. The ARC represents a level of funding that, if paid on an ongoing basis, is projected to cover normal cost each year and amortize any unfunded actuarial liabilities (or funding excess) over a period of 30 years. The following table shows the components of PDSW's annual OPEB cost for the year, the amount actually contributed to the plan, and the changes in the PDSW's net OPEB obligation for 2008:

Business Type Activities

ARC	\$	25,047
Interest on net OPEB obligation		-
Adjustment to ARC		-
		<hr/>
Annual OPEB cost	\$	25,047
Contributions during the year		(4,312)
		<hr/>
Increase in net OPEB obligation	\$	20,735
Net OPEB, beginning of year		-
		<hr/>
Net OPEB, end of year	\$	<u>20,735</u>

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

6. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

E. Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

Business Type Activities (Continued)

GASB Statement 45 was adopted effective January 1, 2008. Therefore, disclosure of annual OPEB cost, the percentage of annual OPEB cost contributed, and the net OPEB obligation at end of the year is not applicable for fiscal years ending December 31, 2007 and 2006.

Funded Status and Funding Progress

As of January 1, 2008, the most recent actuarial valuation date, the plan was unfunded. The actuarial accrued liability for benefits was \$182,087, and the actuarial value of assets was \$0, resulting in an unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) of \$182,087. The covered payroll (annual payroll of active employees covered by the plan) was \$1,203,000, and the ratio of the UAAL to the covered payroll was 15.1 percent.

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and the healthcare cost trend. Amounts determined regarding the funded status of the plan and the annual required contributions of the employer are subject to the continual revision as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. The Schedule of Funding Progress, presented as required supplementary information following the notes to the financial statements, presents a single year's information, as the standard was implemented in 2008. When it becomes available, multi-year trend information about whether the actuarial value of plan assets is increasing or decreasing over time relative to the actuarial accrued liabilities for benefits will be displayed.

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employer and the plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefits costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The actuarial methods and assumptions used include techniques designed to reduce the effects of short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets, consistent with the long-term perspective of the calculations.

**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

6. Summary of Significant Contingencies and Other Items

E. Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions (Continued)

In the January 1, 2008, actuarial valuation, the entry age normal percent of pay actuarial cost method was used. The actuarial assumptions are based on pay-as-you-go funding and a five percent discount rate. The UAAL is being amortized as a level percentage of six percent of projected payroll on a closed basis over 30 years. The remaining amortization period at December 31, 2008, was 29 years.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

**SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS - OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS
DECEMBER 31, 2008**

Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets (a)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) (b)	Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) (b-a)	Funded Ratio (a/b)	Covered Payroll (c)	UAAL as a Percentage of Covered Payroll ((b-a)/c)
January 1, 2008	\$0	\$182,087	\$182,087	0.0%	\$1,203,000	15.1%

See Note 6.E., Other Postemployment Benefits, for more information.

Multi-year trend information is not available at this time, as Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 45 was implemented in 2008.

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**POPE/DOUGLAS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
ALEXANDRIA, MINNESOTA**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008**

**FINDINGS RELATED TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDITED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

INTERNAL CONTROL

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ITEM NOT RESOLVED

96-1 Segregation of Duties

Due to the limited number of office personnel within Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management's (PDSW) office, segregation of accounting functions necessary to ensure adequate internal accounting control is not possible. This is not unusual in operations the size of PDSW; however, management should constantly be aware of this condition and realize that the concentration of duties and responsibilities in a limited number of individuals is not desirable from an accounting point of view.

Examples of incompatible duties which should be performed by separate individuals are:

- receipting collections, posting collections to registers, and making deposits with Douglas County; and
- entering data and reviewing the monthly detailed report of receipts and disbursements for accuracy.

We recommend that PDSW continue to be aware of the problem and, if possible, develop oversight procedures to ensure adequate controls over cash and other items.

Client's Response:

The Board of Directors is aware of the concerns regarding general internal controls. The Board agrees that additional internal controls are not possible due to the small administrative staff. However, the Board feels that our internal control is complete as the following steps are taken regarding each receipt:

1. *The money is accepted and receipted at Pope/Douglas Solid Waste by the Office Manager;*

2. *The money is then deposited by the Office Manager with the Douglas County Auditor and Treasurer and a receipt is received;*
3. *At least twice a month, the Executive Director compares the Pope/Douglas receipts with the County receipts.*

We believe that this is the maximum control effort that is possible given the size of the administrative staff.



REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

SUITE 500
525 PARK STREET
SAINT PAUL, MN 55103-2139

(651) 296-2551 (Voice)
(651) 296-4755 (Fax)
state.auditor@state.mn.us (E-mail)
1-800-627-3529 (Relay Service)

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Board of Directors
Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management

We have audited the financial statements of Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management (PDSW) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2008, and have issued our report thereon dated November 30, 2009. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of PDSW's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of PDSW's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we identified a deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects PDSW's ability to initiate, authorize, record,

process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of PDSW's financial statements that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by PDSW's internal control. We considered the deficiency described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Recommendations as item 96-1 to be a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statements will not be prevented or detected by Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we believe the significant deficiency described above is not a material weakness.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Minnesota Legal Compliance

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Local Government*, promulgated by the State Auditor pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 6.65. Accordingly, the audit included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

The *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Local Government* contains six categories of compliance to be tested: contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, claims and disbursements, and miscellaneous provisions. Our study included all of the listed categories.

The results of our tests indicate that, for the items tested, Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management complied with the material terms and conditions of applicable legal provisions.

Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management's written response to the significant deficiency identified in our audit has been included in the Schedule of Findings and Recommendations. We did not audit PDSW's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors, management, and others within Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than those specified parties.

/s/Rebecca Otto

REBECCA OTTO
STATE AUDITOR

November 30, 2009

/s/Greg Hierlinger

GREG HIERLINGER, CPA
DEPUTY STATE AUDITOR